



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,715	02/19/2004	Robert Staggs	026595-004800US	5593
20350 7590 09/05/2007 TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			EXAMINER ORTIZ, BELIX M	
			ART UNIT 2164	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/05/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/783,715	Applicant(s) STAGGS, ROBERT	
	Examiner Belix M. Ortiz	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 18-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 18-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications files on 19-June-2007, claims 1, 9-11, 18-19, 22, and 24 are amended and claims 12-17 are cancelled per applicant's request. Therefore, claims 1-11 and 18-28 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 18, 20, and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (Eff. Filing date of application 2/19/2004) as being unpatentable over Schmonsees (U.S. patent 5,842,221) (Eff. filing date of application 2/19/1997) in view of Zhu (U.S. Patent 7,146,159) (Eff. Filing date of application: 12/23/2003).

As to claim 1, Schmonsees teaches a computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving a request from a user to access a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page (see column 1, lines 4-7); and

selecting a set of questions to display to the user based on the account data so that the set of question are personal to the user based on the personal data of the user (see column 4,

Art Unit: 2164

lines 35-43).

Schmonsees does not expressly teaches retrieving account data for the user, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user, but (see fig. 4, character 41 and fig. 5, character 51 and column 4, lines 49-53) (where he teaches an authoring process where the user have to sign in with a personal information).

Zhu accessing account related to a card with the personal information (see abstract), in which he teaches retrieving account data for the user, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user (see col.4, lines 59-67).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Schmonsees by the teaching of Zhu because retrieving account data for the user, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user, would enable the method to show to the right user the account that belong to the user.

As to claim 2, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising formatting a set of personalized answers to the set of questions using the account data (see Schmonsees, column 3, lines 56-58).

As to claim 3, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein formatting a set of personalized answers comprises selecting a first answer for a first question from a set of answers for the first question (see Schmonsees, claim 1 and column 3, lines 56-58).

Art Unit: 2164

As to claim 4, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein selecting a first answer comprises determining a condition for the first answer is satisfied (see Schmonsees, claim 1).

As to claim 5, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising displaying the set of questions and the set of personalized answers to the user (see Schmonsees, column 2, lines 29-40 and column 5, lines 27-32).

As to claim 6, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising:
before displaying the questions, determining an order for the set of questions using the user data (see Schmonsees, column 4, lines 35-43 and column 5, lines 8-15); and
wherein displaying the set of questions comprises displaying the set of questions in the determined order (see Schmonsees, figure 6).

As to claim 7, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein formatting a set of personalized answers comprises formatting at least one question to display information specific to the user by using the user account data (see Schmonsees, claim 1; column 3, lines 56-58; and column 4, lines 35-43).

As to claim 18, Schmonsees teaches a computer-implemented method comprising:
receiving a request from a user to access a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page about a loan acceleration program (see column 1, lines 4-7);

Art Unit: 2164

retrieving account data for the user, the account data including a type of repayment schedule for the loan acceleration program (see column 3, lines 50-55 and column 5, lines 8-19);

selecting a first question to display to the user based on type of repayment schedule (see claim 1); and

selecting at least one additional question to display to the user using the account data (see claim 1).

As to claim 20, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising formatting an answer to one of the questions using the account data (see Schmonsees, column 3, lines 56-58).

As claim 22, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising determining that the account data indicates a recent change to the account; and selecting a second question related to the change to display to the user (see Schmonsees, claim 1; col. 2, lines 29-40; col. 4, lines 35-43;; col. 5, lines 27-32)

As claim 23, Schmonsees as modified teaches the method further comprising ordering the second question to be displayed before the first question and the additional question (see Schmonsees, col. 4, line 35-43 and col. 5, lines 8-15)

As to claim 24, Schmonsees teaches a system comprising:

a first set of data containing a plurality of questions (see column 5, lines 12-13);

logic, communicatively coupled to the first set of data and the second set of data, the logic to receive a request from a user to access a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page, to retrieve from the second set of data the account data for the user, and to select a group of questions from the first set of data to display to the user based on the account data for the user so that the group of questions are personal to the user based on the personal data of the user (see column 5, lines 8-19).

Schmonsees does not expressly teaches a second set of data containing account data for a plurality of users, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user, but (see fig. 4, character 41 and fig. 5, character 51 and column 4, lines 35-53) (where he teaches an authoring process where the user have to sign in with a personal information).

Zhu accessing account related to a card with the personal information (see abstract), in which he teaches a second set of data containing account data for a plurality of users, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user (see col.4, lines 59-67).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Schmonsees by the teaching of Zhu because a second set of data containing account data for a plurality of users, wherein the account data is associated with personal data related to the user, would enable the method to show to the right user the account that belong to the user.

As to claim 25, Schmonsees as modified teaches the system further comprising a third set of data containing a plurality of answers, wherein each of the answers is associated with at least one of the questions and each of the questions is associated with one or more answers (see

Art Unit: 2164

Schmonsees, figure 6; claim 1; column 2, lines 29-39; and column 5, lines 8-19).

As to claim 26, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein the logic selects an answer to one of the group questions, based on the account data for the user, from a plurality of answers contained in the third set associated with the group question (see Schmonsees, figure 6).

As to claim 27, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein the logic formats an answer to one of the group questions by inserting data obtained from the account data for the user into the answer (see Schmonsees, claim 1; column 3, lines 56-58 and column 4, lines 35-43).

As to claim 28, Schmonsees as modified teaches the system further comprising a display mechanism to display the group of questions (see Schmonsees, column 5, lines 12-15).

4. Claims 8-11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (Eff. Filing date of application 2/19/2004) as being unpatentable by Schmonsees (U.S. patent 5,842,221) (Eff. filing date of application 2/19/1997) in view of Zhu (U.S. Patent 7,146,159) (Eff. Filing date of application: 12/23/2003), as applied to claims 1-7, 18, 20, and 22-28 above, and further in view of Namba (U.S. Pub. 2003/0018629) (Eff. Filing date of application 1/31/2002).

As to claim 8, Schmonsees teaches wherein determining the set of questions comprises: evaluating a condition for a first question (see claim 1).

Schmonsees does not teach when the condition is satisfied, selecting the first question.

Art Unit: 2164

Namba teaches document clustering device, document searching system, and FAQ preparing system (see abstract), in which he teaches when the condition is satisfied, selecting the first question (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Schmonsees by the teaching of Namba because when the condition is satisfied, selecting the first question, would enable the method to continue with the next step if the user past the condition, this make the method more secure.

As to claims 9, 10, 11, Schmonsees as modified teaches wherein the FAQ page have condition (see Namba, abstract and paragraph 36).

As to claim 19, Schmonsees teaches the method further comprising:
selecting an answer for one of the questions from a set of answers based on the determining (see figure 6).

Schmonsees does not teach determining that the account data indicates the user is eligible for a service.

Namba teaches document clustering device, document searching system, and FAQ preparing system (see abstract), in which he teaches determining that the account data indicates the user is eligible for a service (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Schmonsees by the teaching of Namba because determining that the account data indicates the user is eligible for a service, would enable the

Art Unit: 2164

method to continue with the next step if the user past the condition, this make the method more secure.

5. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (Eff. Filing date of application 2/19/2004) as being unpatentable by Schmonsees (U.S. patent 5,842,221) (Eff. filing date of application 2/19/1997) in view of Zhu (U.s. Patent 7,146,159) (Eff. Filing date of application: 12/23/2003), as applied to claims 1-7, 18, 20, and 22-28 above, and further in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0200118) (Eff. Filing date of application 4/18/2003).

As to claim 21, Schmonsees does not teach wherein formatting an answer comprises inserting a payment amount paid by the user into the answer.

Lee et al. teaches system and method for payment of medical claims (see abstract), in which he teaches wherein formatting an answer comprises inserting a payment amount paid by the user into the answer (see abstract and paragraph 3).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Schmonsees by the teaching of Lee at al., because wherein formatting an answer comprises inserting a payment amount paid by the user into the answer, would enable the method to add more information to the answer in view of the information stored on the user account.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Belix M. Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-4081. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

bmo

August 29, 2007



CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER